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Educating U. S. Troops About Communism

What's so difficult and complicated about teaching U. S. troops the fundamental facts and fallacies of communism?

Nothing, we say.

Then, why not get on with the job, cut out the stalling and monkey business?

Why not indeed?

But, Defense Sec. Robert McNamara has just named a committee of prominent Americans—and we do mean prominent—to study the Pentagon's education program and recommend improvements.

Sen. Strom Thurmond has branded this move a "standard bureaucratic response to publicized revelations of shortcomings."

He has reference, of course, to a forthcoming investigation on the part of a Senate committee of which he is a member. This will look into charges of "muzzling" military men and claims that armed forces officers are thwarted in efforts to teach their troops to recognize the Communist enemy, his tricks and provide troops with the knowledge to cope with them.

We fear Sen. Thurmond has something of a point.

This is an old familiar game: When-the-heat's-on — name-another-committee.

It is not to be doubted that our troop education program can be improved.

Nor can there be doubt of the potential worth of a committee whose membership contains such men as Allen W. Dulles, T. Keith Glennan, Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, Ralph Magill, Thomas J. Watson Jr., to mention but a few.

But—we need to acquaint our troops with the dangers of communism—NOW.

Why get technical? Why apologize? Why resort to kid glove tactics?

Let's get on with the job—right away.

Then, if this seemingly worthy committee comes up next July with some practical improvement proposals — let's incorporate them in the troop education program to the end of better acquainting our troops with the menace of communism. In the present minuet Sen. McNamara's role is as questionable as Gen. Walker's was.